



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
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FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

OCT 27 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Policy Memorandum CG-02 – Command Safety Policy

1. The FY08 statistics are showing positive results for Army safety. As of 4 August 2008, the Army experienced 155 Soldier deaths due to accidents. Of these 155 deaths, FORSCOM units experienced 60 fatalities. Fort Polk has experienced 2 accident-related fatalities thus far. Some of these fatalities occurred when Soldiers were doing the right thing and they were, regrettably, victims. However, a good number of these are the result of either indiscipline by the individual Soldier or a failure in leadership.
2. In theater, our most dangerous environment, we have a much lower accident rate -- why is that? I am convinced it is because in combat, our junior leaders are directly involved in the actions of their Soldiers. In these combat situations, the squad leader has ownership, responsibility, and accountability for everything his or her Soldiers do or fail to do. This tells us that when we put our junior leaders in charge, give them the responsibility and hold them accountable -- they and their Soldiers perform superbly and produce positive results. If we trust our junior leaders to lead Soldiers on a combat patrol or to lead them through the door on a raid, we must trust them to do the right thing in leading our Soldiers to be responsible and make safe choices when off duty.
3. Most off-duty Army fatalities occur while driving vehicles, motorcycles, or all terrain vehicles (ATVs). Each member of our team is important and the premise of reducing loss applies to all Soldiers, civilians, Family members, and contractors. The focus of this command is to reduce the number of off-duty fatalities. The following are required safety courses:
 - a. All Soldiers operating motorcycles or ATVs will successfully complete an approved rider safety course prior to operating these vehicles.
 - b. All Soldiers 25 years of age and under, possessing a valid driver's license, will complete the local hazard driving course, the intermediate drivers training course, and the advanced drivers training course.
 - c. All Soldiers will complete the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) found at <https://crc.army.mil> prior to going on leave or pass.

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4. My intent for our JRTC and Fort Polk safety program is to place full responsibility on squad leaders and first-line supervisors to influence our Soldiers to make safe choices both on and off duty. Leaders must empower first-line supervisors and give them the responsibility to identify at-risk Soldiers and to allow these junior leaders to take prudent steps to mitigate accidents. Simply put: Squad leaders are in charge of safety. This in no way removes senior leaders or the chain of command from oversight and supervision. Just like in combat, we will develop plans, supervise preparation, and ensure standards are met; but the squad leader will lead his or her Soldiers "through the door."

5. Specific guidance:

a. Squad leaders will give safety briefings and personally engage their Soldiers prior to releasing them. Company-sized formations will break down into squad-sized elements with adequate time for their first line leaders to personally engage every Soldier and review information and approve off-duty plans.

b. Squad leaders are empowered to approve or modify their Soldiers' plans for off-duty.

c. When a Soldier has an accident or a discipline infraction, especially alcohol or vehicle-related, the squad leader will be involved. The squad leader will accompany that Soldier to see the chain of command; he/she will be responsible for preparing any command-directed additional training; and he/she will be with and supervise his/her Soldier during any additional training.

d. Require all leaders, especially squad leaders, to incorporate Composite Risk Management (CRM) in all mission planning and execution.

e. Challenge your junior leaders to identify and focus on their high-risk Soldiers.

f. All battalion commanders will complete the Army Readiness Assessment Program (ARAP) within 45 days of assuming command and complete a mid-command assessment.

g. Our accident reduction goals are to:

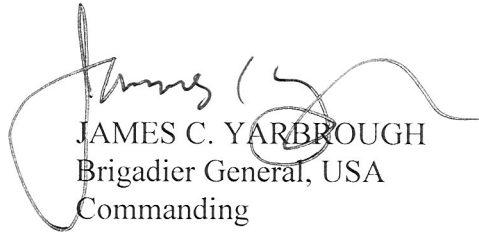
(1) Reduce off-duty accidental loss.

(2) Sustain the over 40 percent reduction of on-duty accidental loss, while shifting focus to off-duty reductions.

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6. I expect our great JRTC and Fort Polk leaders to take this intent and run with it. Set your squad leaders up for success by reviewing and approving their plans -- just like you would do in combat -- and then let them execute.



JAMES C. YARBROUGH
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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